Administrative Tribunal Amendment Act, 2006

2653. SHRI SYED AZEEZ PASHA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Administrative Tribunal Amendment Act, 2006 has brought changes to the effect that conditions of service of members shall be the same as applicable to the judges of High Court;

(b) whether the same is applicable to all the members working in the Tribunal;

(c) whether there is any discrimination; and

(d) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRI SURESH PACHOURI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) The Administrative Tribunals (Amendment) Act, 2006 came into force with effect from 19th February, 2007. According to the provisions of the amended act, the Chairman, Vice-Chairman and Member of a Tribunal appointed before the commencement of the Administrative Tribunals (Amendment) Act, 2006 shall continue to be governed by the provisions of the Act and Rules made thereunder as if the Administrative Tribunals (Amendment) Act, 2006 had not come into force. Accordingly, the existing Members appointed prior to 19-2-2007 shall continue to be governed by the provisions of the original Act and rules made thereunder without any discrimination.

Drawbacks in RTI Act, 2005

2654. SHRI DHARAM PAL SABHARWAL: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the drawbacks that have come to the notice of Government during the implementation of the RTI Act, 2005 so far;

(b) the remedial steps Government have taken or propose to take in this regard; and

(c) what corrective steps Government propose to ensure so that the applications under the RTI Act are specific to the point on one subject and are not vexatious in nature, asking for unnecessary/unconnected details?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRI SURESH PACHOURI): (a) and (b) The Central Information Commission and the State Information Commissions have been mandated to monitor the implementation of the provision of the RTI Act, 2005. Section 25 of the Act provides that the Central Information Commission and State Information Commission, shall as soon as practicable, prepare a report on the implementation of the provisions of the Act during the year which will include recommendations for reform, including recommendations in respect of the particular public authorities, for the development improvement, modernizations, reform or amendment to this Act or other legislation or common law or any other matter relevant for operationalising the right to access information. Action will be taken as and when considered necessary.

(c) The Right to Information Act, 2005 does not restrict the number and nature of questions to be asked in a single application.

Growth index of States

†2655. SHRI PYARELAL KHANDELWAL: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the growth index of some States is behind in comparison to the other States due to not utilising the funds allocated by Centre properly;

(b) if so, the details of such States;

(c) the year-wise and State-wise details of the total amount allocated by the Centre to such States for the last three years alongwith the amount returned to the Centre by them;

(d) whether Government have formulated any scheme to have coordination with such States; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI M.V. RAJASEKHARAN): (a) to (c) The Planning Commission does not compute the growth indices of States. The State-wise details of the total amount allocated by the Centre to the State and Union Territories and the

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.